

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

TRANSLATION

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference 004-3		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/018048	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.12.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.12.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant MITSUBOSHI DIAMOND INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. <input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).	
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of: a. type of material <input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing <input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing b. format of material <input type="checkbox"/> in written format <input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form c. time of filing/furnishing <input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed. <input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.	
3. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.	
4. Additional comments:	

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-23	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-16, 19-21	YES
	Claims	17, 18, 22, 23	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-23	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: CD-ROM of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 66334/1992 (Laid-Open No. 25246.1994) (Murata Machinery Ltd.), 05 April, 1994 (05.04.94), claim 1, Fig. 1

The subject matters of claims 17, 18, 22 and 23 do not appear to involve an inventive step. Document 1 describes that a sucking member (3) is rotated about its rotation axis (2) with the sucking member (3) sucking and thereby holding a substrate (W). Merely placing a plurality of such sucking members and rotating them at a time is easy for a person skilled in the art.

The subject matters of claims 1-16 and 19-21 are neither described in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The description of "as necessary" in claim 19 makes the invention unclear.